

# Do You Own A Water Well?

*The California Water Boards,  
Voluntary Domestic Well  
Assessment Project is offering...*

## Free Private Domestic Well Water Testing!

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

GROUNDWATER SPECIAL  
STUDIES UNIT

VOLUNTARY DOMESTIC WELL  
ASSESSMENT PROJECT

(916) 341-5858

*...providing water quality  
data to private domestic  
well owners...*

**CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS**  
**Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project**  
P.O. Box 2231  
Sacramento, CA 95812  
Attn: Carol Anacker-Hubbard

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PLACE STAMP  
HERE  
Post Office will  
not deliver mail  
without postage.



To help you determine the quality of your private domestic well water, the California Water Board's Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project is offering a free well water testing program for your area.

Who is responsible for my private domestic well water?

The private domestic well owner is responsible for taking special precautions to ensure the protection and maintenance of their drinking water supplies. If your drinking water comes from a private well, health agencies recommend that private water supplies be tested annually to detect contamination problems early.

How can private domestic well water become polluted?

Groundwater pollution can occur naturally or originate from various land use activities. Sources of pollution include fertilizers, pesticides, septic systems, livestock waste, accidental chemical spills, and leaking underground fuel tanks.

How can I tell if my water is safe to drink?

The taste and appearance of drinking water is not a reliable method of determining if it is safe to drink; the only way to find out if your water contains harmful constituents is to have it tested by a certified laboratory.

What can the Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project do for me?

In order to inform citizens about their private domestic well water quality, the Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project is conducting

a free voluntary well water testing program. This will be a one-time test offer.

In addition to providing well owners with specific water quality data, this testing effort will help us in the overall assessment of California groundwater quality.

How are samples collected and how will I get the results?

Samples will be collected by Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project staff using standard sampling procedures. With the assistance of the well owner, Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project staff will locate the well and pressure tank. Before collecting the samples, staff may purge one volume of water from the pressure tank in order to get a more representative sample of the well water. Next, well water samples will be collected from a sampling point as close to the well as possible, or as a last resort, from a cold water faucet before any filters or water treatment systems. The Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project will incur the costs of sampling and analysis and will send you a report on the results, including information on where you can

go for suggestions on how to safeguard your drinking water.

What will the Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project staff test for at private wells?

General constituents to be tested for are shown in Table 1. Additional constituents may be chosen based upon specific information regarding regional hydrogeology or land use for your area.

TABLE 1.  
General constituents to be tested for at private wells.

CONSTITUENT
Total and Fecal Coliform Bacteria
General Minerals (e.g. Sodium, Bicarbonate)
Inorganics (e.g. Lead, Arsenic, Nitrate)
Organics (e.g. MTBE, PCE, TCE)

How do I sign-up to participate in the Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project?

To have your water tested, complete the attached registration card then cut along the dotted line, place a postage stamp on the front of the card, and drop it in the mail. We will contact you to schedule a time to collect a sample from your well and notify you by telephone a few days in advance of our arrival.

I agree, as owner or tenant in possession of the property referenced below, that California Water Boards employees, agents, or contractors may have access to the property for collecting water samples. I acknowledge that the samples will be analyzed for one or more chemical or biological constituents and that the copy of the analytical report provided to me will illustrate the concentration of constituents sampled for and will not indicate or preclude the presence of other contaminants. I further acknowledge that the analytical report will be a public record and as such may be used in water quality studies or investigations. I understand that the California Water Boards cannot require or provide service to correct the drinking water quality of privately owned wells.

- ☐ **YES**, I would like to participate in Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project.
- ☐ **YES**, My house or neighbors use septic tanks for sewage disposal.
- ☐ **NO**, I do not wish to participate at this time, but I would like additional information on how to safeguard my domestic well.

Signature:

Name:

Mailing Address:

City, Zip:

Well Location Address: (if different from mailing)

Daytime Phone:

ID Number: (from top of mailing label)

Comments:

Wells will be tested as resources allow.

Please return registration card by:

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

For more information on the Voluntary Domestic Well Assessment Project, go to [www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama) or call Carol Anacker-Hubbard at (916) 341-5858

Para mas informaciones tocante el Proyecto del Aseso Voluntario de Norias Domesticas, visite [www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama), o llame (916) 323-3289